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During her 17 years of work in the Office of Legislative Liaison, Mrs. Miller has provided dedicated and professional service to both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. She has developed close working relationships with many Congressional offices, and her efforts have greatly enhanced Congressional understanding of Air Force issues. The distinctive accomplishments of Mrs. Pegi Miller culminate a distinguished career in the service of the Federal Government, and reflect great credit upon herself and the Department of the Air Force.

CONGRATULATING THE BLOOMSBURG FAIR ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, for one week each year, the town of Bloomsburg in my district in Pennsylvania welcomes nearly 500,000 visitors to its annual fair. This year, the famous Bloomsburg Fair celebrates its 150th anniversary.

Originally envisioned as an agricultural fair, founder Dr. John Taggart convinced a few of his neighbors to join him in finding exhibitors of fruits, vegetables, and other farm products. Dr. John Ramsey, B.F. Hartman, Caleb Barton, William Neal, and I.W. Hartman joined Dr. Taggart in establishing the fair, for which they charged a ten cent admission fee, most of which was used to pay for police service.

Now expanded to an eight-day event spread out over more than 275 acres, the Bloomsburg Fair still retains much of its original agricultural atmosphere. It now features livestock shows, horse racing, arts and crafts, countless varieties of food, carnival rides, antique shows and an array of other attractions for adults and children alike.

Several years ago, I submitted the Bloomsburg Fair as an excellent example of America's rich cultural diversity for the Library of Congress's Local Legacies program. The Bloomsburg Fair is now permanently memorialized in the collection of the American Folklife Center.

Under the leadership of President Fred Trump, the Bloomsburg Fair Committee works year-round to ensure a successful annual fair. This year was especially challenging in light of the flooding caused by the remnants of Tropical Storm Ivan, which left several feet of water on the fairgrounds just days before its opening. Through the hard work of the Committee and volunteers, the Fair opened as scheduled this past Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, the Bloomsburg Fair represents the best of the American tradition of bringing people together to celebrate the gifts this Nation provides to all of us. I am proud to represent the town of Bloomsburg and the people who make the Bloomsburg Fair an annual tradition for families throughout the region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 23, I was not present for business on the floor of the House due to personal business and was thereby absent for votes on rollcall Nos. 466 through 472. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 466, "no" on rollcall No. 467, "yea" on rollcall No. 468, "no" on rollcall No. 469, "no" on rollcall No. 470, "no" on rollcall No. 471, and "no" on rollcall No. 472.

RECOGNITION OF COLONEL PERRY L. BRIDGES, IN HONOR OF HIS RETIREMENT AND HIS INVALUABLE SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and achievements of an exemplary individual, Colonel Perry (Buddy) L. Bridges. Upon his retirement as the Chief of Staff for the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) and Fort Monmouth, he left behind a distinguished career, one through which he provided an invaluable service to his country.

Perry L. Bridges first entered the military in May of 1977, and throughout his 27 years of service, he held critical responsibilities through his work with the Army, Department of Defense, international organizations and foreign governments. His commitment to his work earned him the respect of all his colleagues and anyone who was fortunate enough to know him. Today, I would like to take a moment to look back and pay homage to a decorated career.

Colonel Bridges' outstanding career has included several high-ranking and significant command assignments. He served as Brigade Commander of the 1st Signal Brigade and he also served exceptionally as Battalion Commander of HHD, 56th Signal Battalion, 106th Signal Brigade.

From June 1999 to May of 2000, Colonel Bridges performed magnificently as the Commander of the Signal Regiment's Academy and Director of the Signal Regiment's School of Leadership and Professional Development; leading an academy of over 1000 students, instructors, and staff personnel who were responsible for 17 leader and professional development courses.

Through his tenure as Chief of Staff at the Communications-Electronics Command and Fort Monmouth, Colonel Bridges directed and coordinated a functional staff of 600 personnel and the resources of CECOM consisting of 10,000 military and civilian employees and an annual budget of approximately \$2.2 billion. Colonel Bridges developed and implemented changes in training and organization that dramatically enhanced and strengthened Fort Monmouth's force protection system so that our enemies will find it more difficult and more costly to interfere with Fort Monmouth's efforts to maintain peace and stability.

As Chief of Staff at the Communications-Electronics Command, Colonel Bridges brought with him a stellar history of service and remarkable leadership ability, integrity and unsurpassed dedication to soldiers, civil servants, the Army and his country. His distinguished military career truly reflects great credit upon himself, the United States Army Material Command, the United States Army and our entire Nation.

A career as notable as this, should not go unrecognized. Colonel Bridges has received numerous awards of recognition throughout his career, which include a Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army Achievement Medal, just to name a few.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Colonel Bridges on a storied career and thank him for his vital service to this country. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Thursday, September 23, 2004, the House had a vote on H.R. 1057. On House rollcall vote No. 468, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRESSIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIL EDUCATION

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, the Founders of this Nation understood that a free society must rely on the knowledge, skills, and virtue of its citizens and those serving in public office on their behalf. To enable our young people to be effective and responsible citizens we must do everything possible to ensure they receive an adequate civic education.

On September 20–22 of last year, the first annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education was launched. The conference was sponsored by the Alliance for Representative Democracy and co-hosted by the four leaders of the U.S. Congress.

One of the very important outcomes of the congressional conference was the establishment of state delegations that would return to the state to enact specific policies designed to restore the civic mission of our schools.

I would like to recognize, Marilyn Cover, Executive Director of Classroom Law Project, and Barbara Rost, Program Director, the facilitators of the Oregon delegation for their leadership in working to design an action plan to improve civic education in our state. These state action team activities include implementing Oregon's already strong and comprehensive State civic standards. Leaders from the Governor's office, State House and

Senate, Department of Education, school districts, and local communities will plan for re-invigorating civic learning in Oregon.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the success of the Oregon civic education delegation and their participation this year at the second an-

nual Congressional Conference on Civic Education on December 4–6 of this year.